

Appln. No. 10/766,384

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1824
Visteon Disclosure No. V203-0076**II. Drawings**

Responsive to the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) that the recitation of the outboard interface being a polygon interface in claims 7-8 be shown, Applicants have cancelled claims 7-8. Accordingly, Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) is now moot, and the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a withdrawal of the objection.

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Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 9-15 have been allowed. Claims 1, 3-8 have been rejected and claim 2 has been objected. Moreover, claims 7-8 have been cancelled. With the amendments provided herein, the Applicants respectfully request for reconsideration and a withdrawal of all objections and rejections.

A. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C § 102

Responsive to the rejections of claims 1, 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0063628 A1 to Wang et al. ("*Wang*"), *Wang* fails to teach each and every element of the subject matter as claimed in the present application. For example, claim 1 recites a bearing receiving portion with both a stepped boss and a roll formed face to engage the bearing assembly and maintain the preload thereon when detached from either the shaft bell or the disc rotor.

The Examiner has stated on page 3 of the office action that *Wang* discloses a detachable shaft assembly of a vehicle wheel end comprising a detachable body as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Contrarily, as shown in Figures 1, 2, and 13 and as described in paragraph [0036] of *Wang*, the referenced bearing shaft comprises a detachable body with a single flange portion which engages only the inboard inner race of the wheel bearing to induce a pre-load onto the wheel bearing such that the pre-load is maintained on the wheel bearing only when the outboard joint is removed from the wheel end assembly. In contrast, claim 1 of the present application recites a detachable body having a bearing receiving portion defined by both a stepped boss and a roll formed face. Claim 1 of the present application further recites that the bearing receiving portion radially receives the inner surface of the preloaded bearing assembly. Moreover, the stepped boss and the roll formed face engages "the bearing assembly at the inboard and outboard ends to maintain the preload thereon when the detachable half shaft assembly is detached from the shaft bell or the disc rotor." Applicants respectfully submit that Examiner's 102 rejection fails because *Wang* does not teach a bearing receiving portion with both a

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stepped boss and a roll formed face to engage the bearing assembly to maintain the preload thereon when detached from either (or both) the shaft bell or the disc rotor. Accordingly, it is believed that the § 102 rejection of claims 1 and 3-5 based on the *Wang* reference are moot and should be withdrawn.

B. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C § 103(a)

Responsive to the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Wang*, *Wang* does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 6 of the present application. Claim 6 is a dependent claim which depends generally from claim 1. Thus, claim 6 is allowable for the reasons provided above. In addition, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify *Wang* to include the use of an 18-sided polygon surface. Accordingly, it is believed that the § 103 rejection of claim 6 is moot and should be withdrawn.

C. Claim Objections

Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 1. However, based on the reasons mentioned above, the objection of claim 2 should be withdrawn.

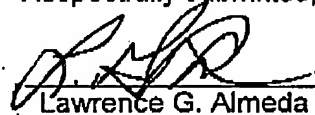
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It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced into the application. Furthermore, in view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

August 31, 2005
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